Fate visits for the holiday's

Larry Wolohon earns MMR 295

Larry began model railroading in tinplate, Marx wind-up trains, Lionel and American Flyer when he was growing up near Denver, Colo. These were presents which he received at Christmastime. He enjoyed these until he saw HO-scale trains. A friend of his mother, Howard Hannah, and one of his third-grade classmates, Steve Bernard, had HO-scale trains and after seeing them, Larry didn't want anything to do with tinplate. Everything in these trains looked right to him.

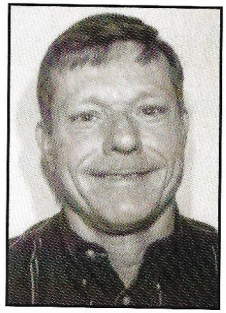
Another contributing factor was the fact that a small HO layout didn't take up much space. However, schoolwork and other diversions like baseball, model cars, girls, and real cars occupied his time, so his model railroading activities were curtailed for a while.

After the first quarter was complete in his junior year of college in 1971, Larry came home for the Christmas holidays and enjoyed taking it easy for a few days. Boredom soon set in and he and his brother went downtown to Caboose Hobbies in Denver. The next thing he knew, he was buying an Ambroid kit of a centerflow hopper. Larry thoroughly enjoyed building the kit.

In May 1972, on the back page of *Model Railroader,* there was an advertisement for a PFM Tenshodo Great Northern P-2 Class 4-8-2 locomotive. This locomotive appealed to Larry and it brought back memories of the Great Northern "Empire Builder" that he saw when he rode the train with his family to visit his grandparents in Ft. Wayne, Ind. The GN paint scheme of Omaha Orange & Pullman Green, with the yellow stripes, had long been a favorite of his.

When Larry finished college in 1973, he got a job with Ford Motor Co. as a Product Engineer. This meant moving to the Detroit area, where he did not know anyone. At the local hobby shop in Dearborn, Mich., he met Bill Maguire who was working there. Bill, as it turned out, was the registrar for the North Central Region. Bill convinced him to join the NMRA and the North Central Region. Bill also told him about the Redford Model Railroad Club.

Larry attended his first Regional Convention in Ann Arbor, Mich., in the spring of 1975. He took a couple of his models, a NKP hopper and a GN wood coach and entered them in the Model Contest. He didn't do very well, but he received some advice from Dave Brock, Ed Black & Dick Dittus, the Model Contest Chairman. Larry built more freight car models and entered them in contests and won some Merit Awards. Next thing he knew, he was judging the model contests and then in 1984 was asked by the — then current — NCR Model Contest Chairman, Joe Kocsis, to be his replacement. Joe was about to be appointed the NCR AP Chairman.



During this time Larry joined the Redford Model Railroad Club. As a club member, he learned other aspects of the hobby including layout design, wiring and dispatching. At home he was building his own layout, "Mechanic Street Yard" from *101 Layout Plans.*

In 1987 he had earned a Golden Spike Award and an AP certificate as an Association Volunteer. He was well on his way to receiving his Master Builder - Rolling Stock. Rolling stock is still one of his favorite aspects of the hobby.

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